

Seattle Bicycle Board Status Report

October 1, 2002, Authored by Charles R Smith

MAJOR PROJECTS

- Continued involvement in the Sound Transit to ensure adequate access to and on all facilities – buses, trains and light rail. The SBAB adopted a policy statement in 1997 to this effect. While parts of the policy have been adopted, we need to continue to monitor and push for complete access to all Sound Transit facilities.
- The Seattle Parks Levy Oversight Committee: Voters in 1999 approved a major bond issue funding parks facilities for the City, including bicycle trails and other facilities. A committee has been formed to oversee implementation of the projects funded under the bonds. I served on this Committee in 2001.
- The I-90 Transportation Study. WSDOT is considering narrowing lanes on I-90 to accommodate more lanes. This could also result in a narrowing of the bicycle/pedestrian facility on the Lake Washington Floating Bridge, as well as narrowing or elimination of the highway shoulder separating the bike facility from the general traffic lanes. This is definitely a safety hazard and must be opposed.
- Member of the YMCA “Get Engaged: City Boards and Commissions” program. The Seattle Metrocenter YMCA sponsors a program together with the City of Seattle to involve the community’s young people in public boards and commissions. The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board and Pedestrian Board are participants in the program.
- Bicycle Parking Racks: Helped complete study of downtown bicycle parking facilities (both on-street and in garages) to promote installation of more bicycle racks and identification of underserved areas. Downtown Seattle has over 2000 bicycle racks already installed. Most locations are identified through individual requests.
- Working to promote Bicycle Safety Awareness program on Metro and Sound Transit buses, alerting the public to the need to share the road and watch out for cyclists.

TRAIL PROJECTS

- Burke Gilman Trail – Advocacy for construction of two portions of the trail in northwest Seattle: Government Locks to NW 60th, construction to begin in 2002; and NW 60th to Golden Gardens Park, construction in 2003.
- Burke Gilman Trail Technical Design Study – “The Missing Link”, 11th Ave NW to Government Locks in Ballard. A technical study will look at safety, access and aesthetic issues on alternative route alignments. A decision has yet to be made on the final routing for this segment.
- Mountains to Sound Trail – 12th Ave S to 4th Ave S: This is a part of a larger project to construct new vehicle ramps from 1st Ave S to connect to I-90, bypassing the BNSF railroad crossing next to Safeco Field. Construction is underway in 2002.

- Duwamish Trail - west side of West Marginal Way, Chelan St. to SW Idaho: Worked on planning and scooping two of the last sections of the Duwamish Trail in West Seattle. This project is awaiting completion of studies per requirements of the Endangered Species Act.
- Chief Sealth Trail – A proposed trail in SE Seattle, along the City Light right of way, starting at Jefferson Golf Course (Beacon Ave S.) This trail is awaiting funding, planning and construction.
- King/Snohomish County Interurban Trail – Worked on promoting Seattle’s portion of this trail from N 109th to N 128th, along the City Light right of way. This trail is also awaiting funding.
- Ship Canal Trail: This short segment would connect already completed trail at 8th Ave W to Fisherman’s Terminal and the Magnolia Bicycle Route along Gilman Ave W. Again, this project is awaiting funding.
- Jefferson Park Trail - Involved in the proposal to construct a pedestrian/jogging path around the Jefferson Golf Course and repave a portion of the service drive, connecting the golf clubhouse, lawn bowling clubhouse, Jefferson Field, Asa Mercer Middle School, the VA Hospital and Beacon Avenue is a very worthy one. The importance of this path is for students at Mercer Middle School as well as for all park users, not just golfers. It offers a safe path for students going to and from school, and facilitates easy access to portions of Jefferson Park that were not as easily accessible before, especially wheelchair users.
- Westlake Pathway – Advocated for good bicycle and pedestrian design of a trail to be constructed along the west side of Lake Union along an old railroad right of way.

OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS

- Bicycle Facility Maintenance: Work to identify areas needing signs, painted bike lanes, other needed maintenance, such as street repairs and regular cleaning schedules.
- Spot Improvement Program: The City’s project to improve existing facilities: curb revisions, asphalt replacement etc. Needs are identified by citizen input through the Spot Improvement Hotline.
- New Bicycle Lanes: Work for installation of bike lanes on key streets, such as Pine, Union and 2nd Avenues in downtown, and other key streets such as Martin Luther King Way, 8th Ave NW, 20th Ave NE and California Ave SW.